

a1
when said trim piece is installed in an automotive vehicle, said outer surface extending smoothly and uninterruptedly across said preweakening pattern, said preweakening comprising a scoring penetrating into said inner surface and extending along said predetermined pattern, said scoring having a stepped depth configuration along said predetermined pattern but not completely penetrating through to said outer surface; said stepped depth configuration cyclically varying in depth.

Please cancel claim 3.

Please rewrite claim 4 as follows:

a2
4. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 2 wherein said scoring extends completely through said substrate.

Please cancel claims 5 and 8.

Please amend claims 9-12 as follows:

a3
9. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 6 wherein said scoring extends completely through said substrate.

10. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 6 wherein said scoring extends partially into said inner covering layer.

11. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 6 wherein said scoring extends completely through said inner covering layer.

12. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 6 wherein said scoring

Q3 extends partially into said outer covering layer without completely penetrating through to said outer surface.

Please cancel claim 13.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

Q4 14. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 13 wherein said trim piece includes a substrate layer with one or more covering layers, and wherein said scoring includes a continuous scoring completely penetrating said substrate layer and extending along said predetermined pattern.

Please cancel claims 15-23.

Please amend claims 24 and 25 as follows:

Sub B37 Q5 24. (AMENDED) A preweakened automotive interior trim piece for covering an air bag installation for an automotive vehicle, said preweakening extending in a predetermined pattern enabling formation of an air bag deployment opening in said trim piece by pressure exerted by deployment of said air bag mounted on the inside of said trim piece at a particular location, said trim piece having a plurality of layers including an outer layer and an inner layer, said outer layer having an outer visible surface extending smoothly and uninterruptedly across said preweakening at said particular location, said preweakening comprising a groove extending in said pattern, but without completely penetrating the outer layer of the said trim piece, said groove having a cyclically varying depth bottom portion lying along said predetermined pattern.

25. (AMENDED) The trim piece according to claim 24 wherein said cyclically varying depth groove portion forms partial perforations in an inside surface of said